enrolment of Women and to provide safe environment in Universities/colleges. The UGC also has a Programme of Establishment of Women Studies Centres to undertake research, develop curricula and organize training in the areas of gender equity, economic self-reliance of women and other women issues.

New universities in the country

†791. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA:
SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Knowledge Commission has recommended to set up new universities in the country and to establish 50 universities as per world level standard;

(b) whether the Commission has also emphasised the need for effective steps to make mathematics, science and technical education, etc. for higher standard;

(c) whether Government would give permission to private sector also for setting up new universities as per the recommendations of the Commission; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) Yes Sir, the National Knowledge Commission has *inter-alia* recommended establishment of 50 National Universities that can provide education of the highest standard.

(c) and (d) The recommendations of the National Knowledge Commission are in the public domain for wider debate among all stake-holders and there is no such proposal under consideration of the Central Government.

Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan in rural areas

†792. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the effective steps being taken by Government to expedite promotion of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan in rural areas of the country;

(b) whether Government are getting any financial assistance from International Financial Institutions in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the financial institutions of the world which have provided financial assistance during the last three years, alongwith the details of the States where such assistance has been utilized?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) The Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) programme is being implemented in all districts of the country to achieve the

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.